



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
NEW JERSEY STATE
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

THEODORA PHILLIPS, R.N.
License # NR 14949100

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a registered practical nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about May 31, 2013, in the course of a random urine drug screen conducted in the course of medical treatment, respondent tested positive for the presence of cocaine and metabolites.¹

¹ Additional documentation exists indicating the circumstances under which the testing took place, but is withheld here for considerations relating to confidentiality.

3. Respondent has not responded to requests that she enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's testing positive for cocaine indicates that respondent is presently engaged in drug use that is likely to impair her ability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(l).

2. Respondent's testing positive for cocaine is a sufficient basis upon which the Board may order respondent to submit medical testing and monitoring and psychological evaluation required to evaluate whether her continued nursing practice may jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(f).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on May 1, 2014, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

The record reflects that the certified mailing of the Provisional Order was returned, marked "unclaimed/unable to forward." The regular mailing of the order was

not returned. The Board considered this matter, and determined that as the mailings had been sent to respondent's address of record with the Board, service had been effected. The Board further determined that inasmuch as no discrepancies had been raised with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Provisional Order, additional proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11th day of July, 2014,
ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended until she is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board that she is fit and competent to practice nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President